



On 31st Street between Minnehaha and 28th Avenues Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org  
Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen, Angela T. Khabeb, and Doug Mork, Pastors

## CARING FOR CREATION

The Caring for Creation group drafted the [Statement of Urgent Concern for the Care of Creation](#) out of deep concern for the enormous spiritual challenge facing the planet—loss of biodiversity and increasing harm to God’s beautiful creation. Furthermore, we felt that we should have a statement on our website that professes Holy Trinity’s care for creation.\*\*

While our church and individual members have done much to address this challenge, including worship themes, physical plant upgrades and efficiencies, wind-sourced energy subscriptions, efficient car/bicycle use, and legislative advocacy, these steps are not sufficient to match the looming crisis. Our youth particularly recognize individual actions alone are not enough. Systemic changes are urgently needed.

Our group began this process by meeting with our pastors and then authoring a longer theological statement of creation care, inspired by Larry Rasmussen, Bill McKibben, and science. We asked the Racial Justice group for advice on the writing of their statement. We sent the earliest version to the Council, incorporated their feedback and then sent it to all the committees and groups of the church. We shortened it time and time again. We held an Adult Forum on the Statement. We publicized it in the Community Church. At every step, individual feedback reframed the statement and we thank all contributors. We also sought out individual feedback from specific youth and diverse voices and took their input to heart. Finally, we resubmitted the Statement to the Council; Council approved it unanimously for consideration by the congregation.

In our working group, it was truly a group effort. We view the statement as a work-in-progress, as we seek out additional diverse input, but need to move on to implementing these very necessary resolutions. We ask you to accept this effort at the Annual Meeting and work towards the saving of God’s wonderful creation with renewed fervor.

—Kathy Hollander and the Caring for Creation Committee

\*\*A copy of the statement is on page 3 of today’s newsletter.



## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

### READINGS

1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

### ADULT FORUM

SUNDAYS, 9:30 A.M.

Login at zoom.us or call 312-626-6799 or click [here](#)  
Meeting ID: 858 5687 1594 / Password: 317879

#### JANUARY 17 “Proposal for Disbursing Money” Stepping Out in Faith Task Force

You are invited to participate in a discussion of the final recommendations made by the Stepping Out in Faith Task Force. The proposal was presented at a town-hall style meeting in December (you can view the meeting [here](#)), it was approved by Church Council, and it will come to the congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting on January 31. If you have questions or feedback for the task force, you can send them by email to [steppingout@htlcmpls.org](mailto:steppingout@htlcmpls.org).

#### JANUARY 24 “Preview of the Annual Meeting” Pastors and Council Representatives

There is a lot of business to cover during Holy Trinity’s annual meeting, which will be held Sunday, January 31, at 12:00 p.m. Join us on Zoom to preview the meeting agenda with Pastor Ingrid and Council representatives during the adult forum hour. At the Annual Meeting, we will vote on the Stepping Out in Faith Proposal, elect new council members, vote on the proposed 2021 budget, and vote on a Congregational Statement on the Care of Creation. Bring your questions!

### VOICES FROM THE HOLY LAND ONLINE FILM SALON

Presented by Bright Stars of Bethlehem

Pre-screen the films; then join the virtual discussion with panelists **Saed Andoni** (Former Head of Films Production Program at Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture, co-founder of Bethlehem Student Film Festival); **Saleh Kayal Tamimi** (Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture, 2014); **Baha’ Abu Shanab** (Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture, 2018); and **Suhad Babaa** (Executive Director of Just Vision, Executive Producer of *Naila and the Uprising*, moderator).

Step 1: Register for the *Voices From the Holy Land* Online Film Salon at [tinyurl.com/VFHLjanuary2021](http://tinyurl.com/VFHLjanuary2021).

Step 2: Once you’ve registered for the event, you will get an email with the link and passcode. Please watch the films at your convenience before the discussion.

Step 3: Join the conversation with your questions and comments on Zoom on January 17, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. with the link provided in your registration confirmation.

## PARISH INFORMATION

### TELL ME ANOTHER

In the coming weeks, as part of our Communities of Calling initiative, Holy Trinity will introduce a new Intergenerational Conversation Project; one that begins with individual stories shared between the adults and young people in our congregation. These stories can be as simple as describing the neighborhood or church you grew up in, that “epic” camping trip you took, or the first time you cooked a turkey for your relatives at Thanksgiving. To “find” your story, begin with a strong memory or unforgettable character and return to the scene, so to speak. “Opening Night” is scheduled for Sunday, February 7, at 5:00 p.m. on Zoom. You do NOT have to share a story; log on to just listen and hear from all kinds of folks, young and old. Linnea Krig will host these monthly sessions. Click here <https://signup.com/go/vnRvzaC> to sign up.

### LIVING LUTHERAN NAMES NEW GUEST COLUMNIST

In the January *Living Lutheran*, editor Andrea Pohlmann Kulik announced that Pastor Angela is the new guest columnist. This means that hers will be the first article in each issue, starting with a January article by her. Ms. Kulik writes, “As *Living Lutheran* enters its sixth year this spring, it’s time for some rearranging. You’ll notice a new design—a clean, fresh look, with different fonts and layout styles. We’ve also made the difficult decision to change our guest columnist... That voice will now come from Angela! Khabebe, a Minneapolis pastor, whose byline you’ve seen before. We’re excited to share her debut column.”

Pastor Angela also writes frequent articles for *Gather*, the magazine of the women of the ELCA.

### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION EVENT

Join fellow HT members at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Event! “Our Rising Voices: A Call for Bold Social Action” will be held virtually on Monday January 18, from 8:30 to 10:15 a.m. Ticket sales (\$25) benefit the Twin Cities United Negro College Scholarship Fund. Please register at <https://interfaithaction.org/2021/01/03/annual-mlk-breakfast-goes-virtual-for-2021/>.



From Wednesday's Youth Choir Outdoor Epiphany Party: The Arifin family receives their blessing from Pastor Doug and Deacon David.

### WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

The worship video for Sunday, January 10, can be found [here](#).

### REPARATIONS: AN INTRODUCTION AND A CHALLENGE

Sponsored by the Racial Justice and Doctrine of Discovery Groups, this discussion series will be offered Wednesday evenings, January 20 through February 10, from 7:00 to 8:15p.m. via Zoom. Reparations for racial injustice involves much more than possible financial compensation for past deeds. One of the first steps is “truth telling” and hearing the stories of the victims of racial crimes. Participants will have short podcasts or articles to review before the meetings and guests from the congregation or community will present and facilitate discussions. This is the start of several series on reparations this year which we hope will include planning for actions we can take as individuals or as communities.

The first session of the discussion series, *Reparations: An Introduction and a Challenge*, will be held **Wednesday, January 20, beginning at 7:00 p.m.** on Zoom. Allison Johnson Heist, a member of Holy Trinity, will share her paper “Taking Responsibility for Reparations: A Call to Action for Non-Black People of Faith” to introduce us to the series. Her paper can be found [here](#) and on the Holy Trinity website. Those planning to participate in the discussion will find it helpful to read it before joining the conversation on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20.

### ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 31 VIA ZOOM AT 12:00 P.M.

All members are invited to join the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 31, 12:00 p.m. via Zoom, as we celebrate the 117th year of God’s ministry through Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We will review committee goals, elect new council members, approve the 2021 budget, vote on a Congregational Statement on the Care of Creation, and vote on the Stepping Out in Faith recommendations for the money we received from the Trinity Apartments transaction. The annual meeting is also an opportunity for us to check on progress made toward our congregational goals. The annual report and a link to the Zoom meeting will be sent to all members prior to January 31.

### CONCERNING PEOPLE

Please don’t hesitate to contact us with pastoral care emergencies (Pastor Ingrid: 612.875.6679; Pastor Angela: 612.248.9121; Pastor Doug: 612.310.5752). We will do our best to help you from a distance.

## **Statement of Urgent Concern for the Care of Creation Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

God has blessed humankind with an abundant planet as our home, a habitat teeming with life, clean air, fresh water, awe-inspiring in fruitfulness, complexity, and beauty. We share this vast Earth community of life with all creatures, both human kind and other kind. As people of faith, we acknowledge that the human vocation is to “till and keep” Earth as a garden, even as we draw from it all that we need to live. (Genesis 2:15). The Christian peoples of modern Western Europe and the United States of America and the economic systems we have developed are failing disastrously in this calling. Driven by a will to dominate both nature and neighbor with a culture of aggressive industrialization and economic imperialism, we have badly abused this home. Furthermore, we have unjustly burdened colonized and indigenous peoples with a deteriorating environment, loss of life, and removal from homelands, and worsening impacts of climate change, and the loss of species and habitat. Yet despite the dire state of the living world, we believe that we can still curb our destructive ways – and must do so urgently – if only we hear God's call, open our eyes, and lend our hands to the restoration of creation.

### **Therefore, as members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, we resolve:**

- To feature the principles of Creation Care prominently in church communications, services, and programming, and to use these channels to call our congregants to urgent action in defense of God's living world.
- To participate actively and effectively in broader actions that promote environmental concern and justice within our local, national, global, and faith-based communities, recognizing that fundamental system changes are needed. In particular, we pledge to support the leadership of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and Youth communities in efforts to gain environmental justice and a sustainable future for all.
- To conduct all church business -- including its investments, facility improvements, maintenance, purchasing, and waste management -- in a manner that minimizes our carbon footprint and promotes clean air, clean water, and biodiversity.